Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 STR-04 STRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 H-01 PA-01 USIE-00 //067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3448
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

CONFIDENTIAL BRASILIA 7083

PASS: MCCONNELL/SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS DIV/FAS/W

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAGR. BR

SUBJ: COFFEE PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

REF: A) FASTO CIRCULAR 349

B) BRASILIA 5841

C) BRASILIA 4797

SUMMARY

AGATT CONTINUES TO ESTIMATE 1977/78 COFFEE CROP AT 17 MILLION BAGS. CURRENT IBC ESTIMATE IS 15.3 MILLION BAGS. CONFLICTING REPORTS REGARDING JULY 1, 1977 STOCKS CONTINUE WITH LATEST GOB ESTIMATE SET AT 6.5 MILLION BAGS. AGATT ESTIMATES JULY 1 BEGINNING STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS WITHIN BRAZIL AT ABOUT 9.0 MILLION BAGS. TRADE ESTIMATES OF IBC STOCKS IN TRIESTE AND HONG KONG RANGE FROM 500,000 TO 20 MILLION BAGS. END SUMMARY.

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1. BRASILIA COFFEE REPORT MAILED AUGUST 9. TOTAL 1977/78
PRODUCTION ESTIMATE 17 MILLION BAGS AND EXPORTABLE PRODUCTION
10 MILLION BAGS. CURRENT IBC PRODUCTION ESTIMATE IS 15.3
MILLION BAGS:. AGATT HAS MADE NO REVISIONS TO 1975/76 AND
1976/77 PRODUCTION DATA CONTAINED IN BB-7019.

2. A SUMMARY OF BRAZIL'S COFFEE PRODUCTION AND STOCK SITUATION

IS CONTAINED IN REFTELS B AND C.

- 3. THE GOB CONTINUES TO RELEASE CONFLICTING REPORTS REGARDING COFEE STOCKS. ON MARCH 17 IBC PRESIDENT CALAZANS TOLD CONGRESSMAN FRED RICHMOND THAT JULY 1, 1977 STOCKS WOULD BE ABOUT 11.2 MILLION BAGS. DURING HIS JUNE 3 REMARKS AT THE GUARUJA COFFEE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT GEISEL MENTIONED THAT JLULY 1 STOCKS WOULD BE QUOTE SLIGHTLY BELOW 9 MILLION BAGS END QUOTE. IN LATE JUNE VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS, QUOTING IBC SOURCES, CARRIED ARTICLES CONTAINING A JULY 1 STOCK ESTIMATE OF 8.9 MILLION BAGS. ON JULY 19 IBC'S ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MAURO MALTA AND STATISTICAL DIVISION DIRECTOR ORLANDO LEITE SHOWED AGATT AND CONGEN RIO OFFICER A TABLE SHOWING JULY 1 STOCK OF 5.3 MILLION BAGS. IN RECENT PRESS INTERVIEWS AND MEETINGS WITH BUSINESSMEN, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CALMON DE SAO HAS MENTIONED 6.5 MILLION BAGS AS THE JULY 1, 1977 STOCK ESTIMATE.
- 4. AGATT BELIEVES BEGINNING STOCKS AS OF JULY 1, 1977 WERE ABOUT 9 MILLION BAGS WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS IBC STOCK AND EXPORT INFORMATION AND DATA FROM OTHER SOURCES. THIS STOCK ESTIMATE DOES NOT INCLUDE COFFEE IN IBC WAREHOUSES IN TRIESTE AND HONG KONG, ESTIMATED BY TRADE SOURCES TO BE BETWEEN 500,000 AND 2 MILLION BAGS (REFTEL C).
- 5. THE CURRENT IBC PUBLISHED FORECAST OF THE 1978/79 COFFEE CONFIDENTIAL

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CROP IS 20 MILLION BAGS. MEMBERS OF AGATT STAFF ARE CURRENTLY VISITING ALL MAJOR COFFEE PRODUCING AREAS AND A PRELIMINARY 1978/79 PRODUCTION FORECAST WILL BE SUBMITTED UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR EXTENSIVE TRIP SEPTEMBER 3. THE 1978/79 HARVEST POTENTIAL OF 20-23.5 MILLION BAGS WE DISCUSSED IN BB-7019 MAY BE ADJUSTED UPWARD OR DOWNWARD BASED ON THE FIELD TRIP OBSERVATIONS. CRIMMINS

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